



Steering Committee Meeting
Minutes
February 12, 2026
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
ZOOM

Members Present: William Trapani, Kim Dunn, Bruce Arneklev, David Newman, LeaAnne DeRigne, Chris Beetle and Carla Calargé

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm by Chair, Dr. William Trapani.
2. UFS Steering minutes
The UFS Steering minutes from [January 15, 2026](#), were **approved by the committee**.
3. President's Report
Before presenting his report, Dr. Trapani welcomed Dr. Carla Calargé (College of Arts and Letters, Department of Languages, Linguistics & Comparative Literature) to the Steering Committee. Dr. Calargé was elected through a special election to fill a committee vacancy and will serve for the remainder of the current term.

Dr. Trapani provided updates on:

- Strategic planning listening sessions
 - Upcoming Board of Governors (BOG) visit (June 24–25)
 - Legislative priorities, including:
 - \$70M FECO request for Health Sciences Building
 - Recurring funds for faculty recruitment
 - Non-recurring funds for a quantum computing initiative
 - Proposed expansion of the Guardian Act
 - Potential out-of-state enrollment restrictions (preeminent institutions)
 - H1B visa moratorium (anticipated one-year pause)
 - Upcoming Board of Trustees meeting
4. Guest Speakers
None.
 5. Open Forum with the Provost
The Provost began his report and invited Dr. James Capp, Associate Vice President of Strategic Planning and Student Success, to provide updates on enrollment and the work of the Provost Fellows.

Dr. Capp shared the following updates:

- **Enrollment**
 - 10% increase in completed applications
 - 2% increase in admits
 - 6% increase in deposits
 - Record-high academic profile of admitted students
- **Transfer Strategy**
 - Expanded partnerships with state colleges
 - Increased online program offerings
 - Continued development of articulation agreements to strengthen transfer pipelines
- **Provost Fellows**
 - Summer and intersession planning resulted in 2% growth in student credit hours and headcount
 - ACUE teacher certification efforts continue to demonstrate improved course outcomes, including reduced DFW rates
 - Ongoing faculty-led work to develop an institutional strategic plan for Artificial Intelligence initiatives

Following Dr. Capp's update, the Provost resumed his report and discussed:

- Strategic planning efforts and the development of initial working groups focused on:
 - Attracting and retaining world-class faculty
 - Operational effectiveness, including reducing institutional bureaucracy
- Faculty development opportunities, including potential adjunct and graduate student instructional training
- The current H1B visa hiring pause and its potential impact on faculty recruitment and retention

6. Committee Reports

- Academic Freedom and Due Process, Dawn Rothe
 - [Recommendation on BOG Statement of Free Expression](#)

Motion: A motion was made to move forward with positive recommendation by steering.
Motion carries.

7. [UPC Consent Agenda](#)

Motion: A motion was made to move forward with positive recommendation by steering.
Motion carries.

8. [UPC Action Agenda](#)

1. Combined BBA/BS to MHA Program (Business)

Motion: A motion was made to move forward with positive recommendation by steering.
Motion carries.

2. BS in Artificial Intelligence + Linguistics (Arts & Letters / Engineering)

- Motion:** A motion was made to move forward with positive recommendation by steering.
Motion carries.
3. BA in Languages, Linguistics & Comparative Literature (Program Change)
Motion: A motion was made to move forward with positive recommendation by steering.
Motion carries.
4. BBA/BS to MS in Accounting (Combined Program)
Motion: A motion was made to move forward with positive recommendation by steering.
Motion carries.
5. BBA/BS in Accounting (Program Change)
Motion: A motion was made to move forward with positive recommendation by steering contingent upon correction from 9 to 10 courses. **Motion carries.**
6. Education Program Proposals (Bundled Items)
Motion: A motion was made to bundle the education proposals. **Motion carries.**
Motion: A motion was made to move forward with positive recommendation by steering.
Motion carries.
7. BS in Construction & Geomatics Engineering Technology (Engineering)
Motion: A motion was made to move forward with positive recommendation by steering.
Motion carries.
9. [UGC Consent Agenda](#)
Motion: A motion was made to move forward with positive recommendation by steering.
Motion carries.
10. [UGC Action Agenda](#)
Motion: A motion was made to move forward with positive recommendation by steering.
Motion carries.
11. Old Business
None.
12. New Business
None.
13. Good of the Steering Committee
None.
14. **Meeting adjourned at 3:19 pm.**